

Spring 2023

March/April/May

Newsletter for the Town of Townsend

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TOWN MANAGER:

Antonina Tantillo

townhall@townsend.delaware.gov

302-378-8082

TOWN MAYOR:

Scott Lobdell

- ❖ Finance
- ❖ Human Resources
- ❖ Land Use & Development
- ❖ Code Review

TOWN COUNCIL

Eschalla Clarke

- ❖ National Wildlife
- ❖ Public Safety
- ❖ Veterans committee

Edward Dugan

- ❖ Human Resources
- ❖ Finance
- ❖ Public Works
- ❖ National Wildlife

Joshua Mertz

- ❖ Code Review
- ❖ Public Works
- ❖ Public Safety

Sheryl Rojas

- ❖ Land Use & Development
- ❖ Veterans Committee
- ❖ Community Engagement

141 Main Street
P.O. Box 223
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(302)378-8082



FROM THE HEART



Monarch Pledge 2023

Mayor Scott Lobdell signed the Mayor's Monarch Pledge on February 1, 2023, reaffirming the Town's commitment to protect the Monarch Butterfly and encouraging other city officials to take a stand with him so that the monarch butterfly will once again flourish across the continent.

Monarchs cannot survive without milkweed. The caterpillar will only eat milkweed plants and the butterfly lays their eggs on milkweed. Please plant milkweed to support monarch populations, and their incredible migration! Planting milkweed is a great way to help other pollinators too, as they provide valuable nectar resources to a diverse suite of bees and butterflies.



WE NEED YOU!

Town Council Candidates

There are four (4) Council positions up for election this year. Three of the positions are for a two-year term. One position is for a one-year term. To be eligible for candidacy you must meet the following qualifications:

- Be 18 years of age
- Be a Citizen of the United States of America
- Be a registered voter in the State of Delaware, New Castle County
- Be a legal resident within the Town Corporate Boundaries for a minimum of twelve (12) consecutive months immediately preceding the filing of candidacy.

Petitions of Candidacy may be requested by contacting Town Hall at 302-378-8082, sending an email to townhall@townsend.delaware.gov, or picking up a packet in person.

All applications must be received at Town Hall by 4:30 pm on Tuesday, March 28th, 2023.

2023 Waste Contract Approved by Council

GFL Environmental will remain the trash service provider through June 30th, 2026. Trash containers must be curbside no later than 7 am on the scheduled pick-up day. Place the carts with the handles facing the house. **BAG ALL TRASH.** Please remember that your recycling should **NOT BE BAGGED** and breakdown any large cardboard boxes.

Yard Waste will continue to be collected bi-weekly on the same day that the trash is collected. **Please do not bag yard waste.** GFL will take small bundles of branches and twigs that are tied with twine. Collection will begin in April and runs until the end of December.

Also, one free bulk pick-up is included per address every week. You must call GFL directly to schedule your collection- 302-378-5400 or call Town Hall at 302-378-8082 to make arrangements.



Needed: Board of Elections Member

There is **ONE** Board of Election Seat open for appointment by Town Council. The position serves for an Indefinite Term until a successor is duly appointed, per the Town Charter.

If you are interested in serving as a Member of the Board of Elections, please reach out by emailing Town Clerk, Mariaelena Rivera, at mriviera@townsend.delaware.gov.

Board of Adjustments: Volunteers Wanted

If you are interested in having a voice in the development of your Town and want to volunteer, the Board of Adjustments is a great way to give back! Meetings are held periodically to hear requests for an exception to an existing Town Ordinance by a developer or resident. Board of Adjustment members serve the Town in accordance with Townsend Municipal [Code Chapter 24.08.020](#). If you'd like to become involved, please contact the Town Manager at townhall@townsend.delaware.gov.

Parade & Fair Volunteers Needed

Townsend Residents and Local Business Owners, please consider helping with 2023 Townsend Parade and Fair. Community service hours will be given! If you're interested in working at the parade or fair, please reach out to Councilwoman Sheryl Rojas at srojas@townsend.delaware.gov. Please provide your name, phone, email, and times that you're available. Thank you for considering.

Past Events

February

Townsend partners with Sylvan Learning Center for FREE mock SAT

On February 17th, a dozen students gave up their day off to take a practice SAT offered by Sylvan Learning Center of Middletown. The director, Meenakshi Tayal, and staff proctored the exam for the students. The students were treated to doughnuts during scheduled breaks.

PARENTS!! Test results are back and the parents are encouraged to call Sylvan at 302-722-8455 for the FREE test review.

Upcoming Events

APRIL

Easter Coloring Contest

The Town of Townsend is now holding an Easter Coloring Contest! There are 5 age groups for the contest, click the age groups below for the link to the coloring page that corresponds with each age group:

[For ages 2-5](#)

[For ages 13-15](#)

[For ages 6-8](#)

[For ages 16+](#)

[For ages 9-12](#)

****Coloring pages can be downloaded and printed or picked up at Town Hall****

SUBMISSIONS ARE DUE TO TOWN HALL BY MARCH 29TH, PRIZES WILL BE AWARDED FOR ENTERING. **Please be sure to write the child's name, age, parents name, phone number, and email address on the back of the coloring page upon submission. If submitting via email please include this information in the correspondence and don't forget to pick up your prize at Town Hall.

WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON MARCH 31ST AND AWARDS WILL BE AVAILABLE ON APRIL 5TH AT TOWN HALL.

Please contact Townsend Town Hall with any questions via 302-378-8082 or email:

townhall@townsend.delaware.gov

MAY

Townsend Yard Sale May 20th

It's time to Spring Clean! And Townsend is here to help! If you would like to participate in the yard sale, please email: townhall@townsend.delaware.gov or srojas@townsend.delaware.gov and include the following information:

Subdivision
House address
Hours Open

A list of the participating homes will be posted on the Town website and other social media outlets on Friday, May 19th. So, make sure you send in your information by **May 18th by 5 pm.**

JUNE



2023 Townsend Parade

Come watch along Main Street on **Saturday, June 3rd at 10 AM** and enjoy the Town of Townsend parade! The parade will start at the Townsend Fire Station and proceed down Main Street to the park on Edgar Road.

If you would like to join in the parade, there is still time! Deadline to register your demonstration group, club, church group, and fancy cars is **Friday, May 12th**. Parade participation is FREE! You can get your registration form here at [2023 Parade Registration Form- Town of Townsend Fair](#), or pick up a form from the Town Hall.

2023 Townsend Fair Vendor

Crafters, businesses, educational and State or County agencies, we still have space available for you to participate in the Town Fair. The deadline to register is Friday, May 12th. The vendor registration forms for non-profit and private vendors are available for pick up from the Town Hall or at the links below:

[2023 NONPROFIT Vendor Registration Form-Town-of-Townsend-Fair.pdf](#)
[2023 PRIVATE Vendor Registration Form Town of Townsend Fair.pdf](#)

Townsend Town Fair Strawberry Contests

Willey Farms is our sponsor for the **Strawberry Pie Contest!** No registration is required. Bring your pie entry to Willey Farms booth located by the gazebo by 10:00 AM. Make sure your name, phone number, and email address is printed on a piece of paper taped to the bottom of your pie pan. Winners will be selected by the sponsor based on appearance, crust and of course taste! Three people will win gift cards from Willey Farms in the amount of \$100, \$50, and \$25.

Li'l Miss and Mister Strawberry Contest is also new for this year! Again, **Willey Farms** is the event sponsor. This contest will be judged for the best strawberry themed costume for children ages 0-5. Registration is required and the deadline to is **May 12th**. A winner will be awarded a \$100 savings bond and the runner-up will receive a \$50 savings bond.

Townsend Pancake Races

The Odessa Diner is sponsoring the inaugural "Pancake Races! Never heard of a pancake race. This whimsical contest was started in England to find out who was the fastest runner, while flipping a pancake in a 412-yard race. We won't be running that long, but you will need to be the fastest runner, that can flip a pancake, and finish with the pancake intact. Sound interesting? Register as an individual or a 2-person team! Three winners will receive gift cards from the Odessa Diner! Consolation prizes will also be awarded to 2nd and 3rd place finishers.



[Your Townsend Police Chief Speaks Up](#)

Prevent bicycle theft

- Keep your bike, mower, and other items you value in a locked garage. Be sure to lock your bicycle to a stationary object and make sure both wheels are locked. Remove any accessories that can easily be taken.
- Record the makes, models, serial numbers, and descriptions and keep this information in a safe place.

Playground Safety Tips

- Actively supervise children on playgrounds and check the area where play occurs.
- Teach children that pushing, shoving, or crowding while on the playground can be dangerous. Remember, little kids can play differently than big kids.
- Bikes, skates, and scooters – Remember helmets and pads! Ensure that kids have a safe, vehicle-free area to ride and that they follow the manufacturer's guidelines for equipment (especially age recommendations)

Yard security

- If you're working in the front yard, lock the back door and garage and vice versa when in the back yard.
- Don't keep ladders or other equipment in the yard that could be used to gain access to your home.
- Keep shrubs, bushes, hedges, and fences to a height of three feet or less.
- Residential lighting should be used to light up home entry points. Motion detector lights are great deterrents.

In the home

- Use pins to hold curtain in place which allows windows to be open for ventilation but prevent them from being opened too wide.
- Don't advertise your vacation plans. Ask a trusted neighbor to pick up the mail and papers and to cut grass.
- Use light timers which will turn two or more lights on and off at predetermined times, like normal activity. The living room and one bedroom are good choices.
- Lock your doors, even if you are leaving only for a short time. For vulnerable sliding doors, add extra protection with a bar, track lock or slide bolt.
- Conduct a home inventory to record the serial numbers and other important details of your valuables. This information can help with recovery.

Vehicle safety

- Park your vehicle in well lit or supervised/patrolled places.
- Never leave anything of value in your vehicle. Coins, sunglasses, and cords may be a target for a thief.
- Take your garage door opener inside with you if you park on the street to prevent a car break-in leading to a home break-in.

Resources:

TOWN STAFF

Mariaelena Rivera-
Town Clerk
Jennifer Helms-
Finance Officer
Kelsey Gallagher-
Administrative Assistant
Paul DiMartino-
Public Works Supervisor
George Hargrove-
Maintenance Worker

Townsend Fire Company 26

Fire Chief: Patrick Gilchrist
Deputy Chief: Montaque Martinez

107 Main Street
302-378-8111
911 for Emergencies

Appoquinimink Community Library

204 E Main Street, Middletown
302-378-5588

Hours:
Mon-Wed: 10am-9pm
Thursday: Closed
Fri-Sat: 10am-5pm
Sun: Closed

SCHOOLS

Townsend Early Childhood
10 Brook Ramble Lane, Townsend
302-378-9960

Townsend Elementary
126 Main St, Townsend
302-378-5020

Meredith Middle School
504 S Broad St, Middletown
302-378-5001

Odessa High School
570 Tony Marchio Dr, Townsend
302-842-2625

From the Town

Thanks to the research of TVII Home Maintenance Organization, Townsend has received DelDot approval to install 8 signs. The location of those signs are as follows:

- Townsend Station- northbound Brook Ramble Lane
- Townsend Village I- northbound Edgar Road
- Townsend Village II- southbound South Street
- Townsend Village II- northbound South Street
- Westbound Main Street near the Fire Department & Townsend Elementary School
- Eastbound Main Street near TVI entrance of Kaitlyn Drive
- Southbound Wiggins Mill Road when traveling into Town
- Northbound Commerce Street when travelling into Town

Part-time Administrative Assistant

The Town has posted a job announcement to fill a vacant position. Please apply if you are interested in filling this position.

Public Works

The painting of the curbs in front of the fire hydrants will begin again as the weather is improving.

The Fire Chief has identified public safety areas throughout roads in the subdivisions. The Public Safety Committee is reviewing the areas of concern and affected homeowners will receive a letter from the Town detailing the areas of concern and the streets where residents and visitors should be mindful of parking. A map showing the affected roads may be located by [clicking on this link](#). Or you may contact the Town Manager at 302-378-8082 or email: atantillo@townsend.delaware.gov.

The building of a pole barn for use by Public Works has been placed on hold until June. A concept site plan had been drafted to place the building at 661 South Street, but the Town Manager and Town Engineer are exploring locations throughout Town for this building.

Blowing Trash

Residents, please confirm that your trash and recycling bins are securely closed especially if setting out your cans on Sunday evening. If you see trash on the roadways, yards, and common areas, please collect any materials and place them in the proper can.

Residents Curb your Dogs

Dog owners, please have your pet relieve themselves in the easement area between the curb and the sidewalk. This is not the owner's yard. Make sure to pick-up your dog waste and dispose of properly. Residents, if you see someone who does not clean up after their pet, please file a complaint with the Town and they will attempt to locate the owner and fine them \$50 per incident.

Annexation of Property into Town

NCC approved the annexation of 6170 Summit Bridge Road into Town. This annexation is still subject to Town Council approval. If you're interested into annexing into Town, please contact the Town via phone at 302-378-8082 or via email: townhall@townsend.delaware.gov .

Townsend Police Report

From January 1- January 26th, our police force handled a total of 12 calls and conducted 9 school traffic details. There are currently three ongoing criminal investigations within Town. The Delaware State Police handled 14 calls in Town when our force was not available.

For the month of February, our force handled 10 calls and conducted 7 school traffic details. The Delaware State Police handled 12 calls in Town when our force was not available.

Our PD continues to build a relationship with our Townsend Fire Company. Our officers participated in dive training/practice with the Townsend Fire Company.

National Wildlife Committee

Chairwoman Eschalla Clarke will be celebrating Earth Day. Please watch for a notification from the Town regarding Earth Day. As residents, you can support Earth Day by walking your neighborhood and collecting any debris. Do not allow young children to walk unaccompanied nor cleanup near stormwater ponds.

The Mayor's Corner

Hello Townsend!

Spring is finally upon us! There are many things planned over the next few months as discussed in this newsletter. The Town would love to see everyone come out and enjoy all the festivities. Don't hesitate to say hi when you see us there!

With the weather warming, there will be a lot more children out and about riding bike and playing through town. Please take utmost care in your driving speed and attentiveness. We want to keep everyone safe!

Elections for Town Council are right around the corner. With four (4) seats open this is a great opportunity for anyone looking to serve on Council. Please feel free to reach out to any Council member with questions about the role if you are interested.

Lastly, we invite everyone to attend our Town Council meetings on the first Wednesday of the month. We love getting feedback from the residents and the meetings are always the best place.

Mayor Scott Lobdell